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## The Decorator and Furnisher.

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THE hand of adornment has been busy in buildings connected with Princeton College. Among the rest the old Potter house was put in admirable decorative order for Dr. Patton during the summer vacation. This is one of the magnificent early forms providing the best basis for the plans of decorators. The great hall with dome above has been treated in distemper in Italian style and with an effect in which the designer may rightly take pride. The new house built for Dr. McCosh, and which is an example of colonial architecture of the best form, is equally good in artistic interior arrangement. A room decorated for Professor Marquand is another work of highly tasteful form with simple motive of design. The Biological Laboratory built by the class of '77, which is just completed, is of Florentine order with decoration of a high character without great elaborateness. The main part of this new Art Museum building where the Prince Cypriote antiquities will be established will be completed early in December. A fine decorative feature in connection is a Parthenon frieze reproducing portions from the original in the British Museum, never before seen in this country. The staircases of this building are in iron, and the floors in Pompeian mosaic of specially beautiful variety.

IT is the opinion of many bibliographical collectors that books placed behind glass doors are without sufficient ventilation. In a library just arranged by one of the best architects, the books are protected by leather curtains in the form of lambrequins adjusted to each shelf. The tendency is not only to avoid placing books in a heated atmosphere near the ceiling with the use of lofty cases, but to give them plenty of fresh air on the same levels occupied by readers.

A HIGH degree of perfection has been reached in the manufacture of tables in brass. That such should be exported to Europe is only in the natural course of demand. Some of the new pieces of the class are much in advance of any previously seen. One of these with three swans grouped about the standard with raised wings is a piece of much grace and delicacy of workmanship. This is formed with tripod base of light design and above the heads of the birds, the slender single upright support is covered in a coil of wire. The border contains a raised band in blue plush next the fine onyx slab, forming the top outside of which is an open-work section with blue plush beneath with solid border at the edge. A fringe of lustres finished this

## THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

daintily treated piece of furniture. Another of oval shape is made with block of onyx set into a shallow cylindrical form of framing with border including a pierced band showing red lining beneath. Some exquisite specimens of onyx are introduced in these recently manufactured tables, while others of similar style in brass are made with tops in mother-of-pearl in inch squares uniting beautiful material.

IN a country house of Fifteenth Century, English style designed by Mr. R. M. Upjohn, the interior arrangement is of peculiarly good effect. The hall is carried through two stories giving it a height of twenty-eight feet. On one side of this is a balcony providing for music, and on the opposite side a fireplace is built in stone with carved ornament which is ten feet across. The staircase is treated with much elaboration of detail. A wainscot in oak reaches a height of seven feet and the ceiling is timbered. The hall space is divided by the formation of a small room on the second story level, which is separated from the area of the hall with stained glass screen. The fine library which is divided by an arcade has a window six feet square in a single piece of glass. A seat is fitted in the recess beneath, and a decorative effect is given by the circular-top of the window with ornamented spandrels.

THE beauties of this generation are not limited to a few forms of mirrors. The latest novelties are frequently in the variety of these articles made with light frames. In some cases the beveled glass is finished only with little clamps set with diamonds; the greater number show fantasies of varied forms. One of these is seen in what is called the moon mirror with small clamps extended from the back in silver over the edge of the glass which is of oval form. The left side is covered in a silver crescent within which appears the face of the man in the moon. On the lower end of the crescent the figure of a boy stretches itself to reach with a tickling twig the nose in bronze above. The cat mirror is formed with a comfortable pussy studying her reflection thoughtfully in the glass while a friend of hers—either in silver or antique brass like herself—peers quizzingly at her over the top of the mirror. The Arabian mirror shows the head of a laughing Arab woman with bow and arrow above, while the feet are visible at the base as the support of the glass. Owl mirrors are included with the new forms as are many varieties with floral ornamentation. One of the prettiest of these is a mirror rising from behind a rustic lattice entwined with vines, with perhaps a bird perched at one side.

A WEST side kiln for drying lumber prepares for use 30,000 feet in a day. A lot of mahogany amounting to no less than 100,000 feet has been dried at one time for construction of cars. The process by which this drying is done is comparatively new. It results from experiments of twenty years. A kiln capable of holding 2,500 feet of lumber is formed with platens operated in opening and closing by hydraulic pumps. Each kiln weighs thirteen tons, and a platen about six hundred pounds. Six kilns form this plant in New York which is the largest one known. Another in Chicago is made with four kilns. The same process on a smaller scale is in use in different parts of the country. The twisting of the wood is overcome by hydrothetic pressure. At a temperature of 160° the albumen or sap in the material is solidified in crystals. A magnifying glass renders these visible in any piece of wood dried by this process. This is not the case with drying in the air which is still most largely the method in use. A great part of the lumber required for cars is dried in kilns. A single order from a contractor may be for 100,000 feet. An enormous quantity is treated by vulcanizing. The daily capacity of works on the East river is 50,000 feet. At the same time two-thirds of the lumber used is dried in the air. Such is the scale on which building and decorating are advanced.

A NEW French process for electroplating flowers, insects, etc., is reported. The metals used for the deposits are gold, silver and copper, the novelty being in the method of preparing the bodies to receive the electro deposit. The objects are first freed from all earthy or calcareous matter, as in the case of mails, by being washed in water. They are then placed in distilled water in which they are left for a sufficient time to allow of all the albuminous matter which they search to be given off. This matter is filtered and boiled for about an hour, after which a quantity of distilled water, sufficient to replace that lost by boiling, is added with about three per cent. of nitrate of silver. This solution is then placed in bottles which are sealed and kept in a dark place. When this liquid is used for the preparation of specimens to be electroplated, about thirty grains of it are dissolved in about one hundred grains of distilled water, and the object are immersed in this solution for a few moments. They are then placed in a bath consisting of distilled water with about 20 per cent. of nitrate of silver in solution and afterward

submitted to the action of sulphuretted hydrogen gas, which decomposes the nitrate of silver adhering to the albumen coated surface of the object. The silver reduced fits the object to receive the metallic deposit which the process of galvano-plasty produces.

THE strict attention given to the nature of all materials used in present good classes of fireproof construction is represented through specifications by which builders are guided. An example may be taken from the requisitions in the case of the apartment house built at Park avenue and Sixty-second street, for the New York Life Insurance Company, from designs by Messrs. McKim, Mead and White. An item connected with the formation of the interior walls is a sufficient index of the constructive plan throughout. The directions at this point are as follows: "The lath will be galvanized corrugated iron wire of No. 18 B. W. gauge, or Kelley's patent of the same gauge, to be put in place with galvanized iron nails or laced with copper wire in a secure and workmanlike manner." If equal thoroughness were carried through all forms and details of building in the city the fire companies would lose their occupation.

A FORTHCOMING folio volume will contain a selection of Hans Holbein's works executed in pen and water colors which have been photographed by a Parisian firm in the British Museum, by permission from the trustees of that institution. Among the designs mentioned is one of a clock for Sir Arthur Denny, presented by him as a New Year gift to the King in 1544. In antiquarian consideration, the drawing is the more valued from having belonged at one time to Marietta, the great French collector, and also to Horace Walpole. Another of the selected designs is that of a chased and jeweled cup inscribed with the initials of Henry VIII, and Jane Seymour, with the motto "Bound to obey and serve," and one of corresponding interest in historical relation, is a design for the hilt and sheath of a dagger in Indian ink, formerly in the Hugh Howard collection purchased for the British Museum in 1874.

THE statement is made by decorators of a good class of houses that some of the people in New York call more and more for old-fashioned things. The recent manufactures in one establishment have included a number of four-post bedsteads with canopies having the draperies hung to cover all the bed. The dressing cases and washstands are made in a style to correspond. The antique furniture required is chiefly for bedrooms or dining-rooms. In drapery the old style is not at all followed, but draperies of the present are used with furniture of the older forms. The selections are in the old colors combined in new designs.

A FIRM of art decorators have executed some beautiful work in vermilion wood which is only just introduced. This product from Sumatra is of a different tone of color from mahogany, being of a deeper red than that popular wood. It is of a finer grain than mahogany, and is of equal commercial value with the best varieties of that species. The vermilion wood grows within a limited belt and does not attain a large size. Its use will hardly become common, however much it may be admired.

AN interior wall formation with two coats of plaster and interlaced iron wire between is considered a safe and proper construction. In even the commonest jobs the slots in the walls for pipes are guarded with iron wire. The difference between the cost of walls built in the present manner and that of the old lathing is not great. The iron material comes in sheets, is cut with shears and easily put up. The problem of plaster which has received much recent attention is less hopeless than hitherto. Among others dealing with it an architect who gave up his profession, believing that there is more money in plaster, has developed something in the nature of fire-proof plaster which architects declare the nearest approach to the ancient Roman cement yet discovered.

THE opening on the First of the present month of the New York Institute for Artist-Artisans is a step of undoubted consequence to this country in connection with the applied arts. While the organization has not yet risen to the character of the University proposed, it already unites the elements for great if necessarily gradual development. The beginning is unpretentiously made in rooms at 140 West Twenty-third street, on a desirable financial basis, and with the sympathy of a wide circle of intelligent patrons. From all the early conditions of this work directed to making art a part of national life in all ordinary movements its ultimate success is evidently well determined.